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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,790	07/26/2006	Francis Chi	OBI-103CXC1	6044
23557 7590 09/29/2009 SALIWANCHIK LLOYD & SALIWANCHIK A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION PO Box 142950 GAINESVILLE, FL 32614				
EXAMINER KWON, BRIAN YONG S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1614				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/29/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

euspto@slspatents.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/585,790

Applicant(s)

CHI ET AL.

Examiner

Brian-Yong S. Kwon

Art Unit

1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 18 and 20-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 20-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application

1. Acknowledgement is made of applicant's amendment/remarks on 06/16/09. By the amendment, claims 18, 20-22 and 24-26 have been amended and claim 19 has been cancelled.
2. Applicant's amendment requiring "maintaining or lowering endogenous cortisol levels.." in claim 18 and cancellation of claim 19 necessitates a new ground of rejection in this Office Action.
3. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set of actions being applied to the instant application.

Claim Objection

4. Claims 20-21 are objected, as being of improper dependent form for further limiting to the cancelled claim 19. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 18, 20-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bernton et al. (US 5605885).

Bernton teaches the administration of prolactin agonist (e.g., cysteamine or cysteamine hydrochloride), singly or in combination (e.g., glucocorticosteroid or cyclosporine), to an animal or human thereby preventing the deleterious effects of stress or corticosteroid treatment on their function, or to stimulate immune, or bone marrow function, namely antagonizing suppression of immune function by chronic stress or prevention or treatment of stress induced impairment of the immune system, wherein said cysteamine is administered orally once or twice each day to achieve adequate immunostimulation in approximately 1 to 25 mg per kg body weight (column 3, lines 5-27 and 64-67; column 5, lines 5-8 and lines 60-62; column 8, lines 61-65; column 4, lines 17-23; column 10, line 52 through column 11, line 53; Example 1).

Although Bernton is silent about the functional property of cysteamine in maintaining or lowering endogenous cortisol level, such property deems to be inherent to the referenced method. It is noted that the prior art method directing the administration of same compound (i.e., prolactin like compound such as cysteamine or cysteamine hydrochloride) to same patient population (e.g., patient taking glucocorticosteroids or opioid), in overlapping dosage amounts, inherently possessing same therapeutic utility for the ultimate purpose as disclosed by the applicant anticipates the instant invention even explicit recitation of underlying mechanism.

To the extent that the claims 18-22 and 24-26 include the active step of administering cysteamine to the patient prior to the stressful event, the instant invention is construed to mean the absolute absence of stress event. In other words, the analysis of the instant claims 18-22 and 24-26 allows for the inclusion of any patient population other than the stressful event, as long as

the same compound is administered to body of the patient in overlapping dosage amounts. The examiner determines that the prior art patient taking opioid or glucocorticoid falls within "metes and bounds" of the instant patient population without the stressful event, and thus Bernton anticipates the instant invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernton et al. (US 5605885) in view of McCleary (US 6964969).

The teaching of Bernton has been discussed in above 35 USC 102(b) rejection.

McCleary is being provided as a supplemental reference to demonstrate the routine knowledge in using therapy such as relaxation, massage, acupuncture, psychotherapy, meditation, taking a sedative and the like for the treatment of stress (column 21, lines 3-14).

The teaching of Bernton differs from the claimed invention in the use of cysteamine and therapy (e.g., counseling, psychotherapy, exercise, meditation and massage therapy).

Above references in combination make clear that cysteamine and therapy such as relaxation, massage, acupuncture, psychotherapy and meditation have been individually used for the treatment of stress. It is obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by prior art to be useful for same purpose; idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art. The combination of active ingredient with the same character is merely the additive effect of each individual component. *See In re Kerkhoven, 205 USPQ 1069 (CCPA 1980).*

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 06/16/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument in the response takes the position that Bernton fails to teach administering cysteamine, or a salt thereof, to a patient prior to a stressful event in order to

maintain or reduce cortisol in the patient following the stressful event. Applicant asserts that the findings of Benton essentially teach away from the methods of the claimed invention since Bernton essentially teach administering cysteamine to ensure adrenal sufficiency, including the ability to increase cortisol levels in the immunosuppressed patient.

This argument is not found persuasive. Anticipation under 35 USC 102 is an essentially irrebuttable question of fact, wherein the court stated that anticipation “cannot be overcome by evidence of unexpected results or teachings away in the art”. *In re Malagari*, 499 F.2d 1289, 182 USPQ; *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 15 USPQ2d 1655 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *In re Fracalossi*, 681 F.2d 792, 215 USPQ 569 (CCPA 1982); *In re Alternpohl*, 500 F.2d 1151, 183 USPQ 38 (CCPA 1974); *In re Wiggins*, 488 F.2d 538, 179 USPQ 421 (CCPA 1973); *In re Wilder*, 429 F.2d 447, 166 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1970). Indeed, a reference might reside in a nonanalogous art and yet constitute an anticipation of a claimed invention under 35 USC 102. *In re Self*, 571 F.2d 134, 213 USPQ 1 (CCPA 1982). In this case, the prior art method directing the administration of same compound (i.e., prolactin like compound such as cysteamine or cysteamine hydrochloride) to same patient population (e.g., patient taking glucocorticosteroids or opioid), in overlapping dosage amounts, inherently possessing same therapeutic utility for the ultimate purpose as disclosed by the applicant anticipates the instant invention even explicit recitation of underlying mechanism.

Applicant's argument in response to the 35 USC 103 rejection is basically the same as discussed above, so the response discussed above applies here as well and is unpersuasive for reason just discussed

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. No Claim is allowed.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Kwon whose telephone number is (571) 272-0581. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel, can be reached on (571) 272-0718. The fax number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications may be obtained from Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

/Brian-Yong S Kwon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1614